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~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

COUNTRY Germany (British Zone)

SUBJECT Current Views of Dr. Kurt Schumacher

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This document is hereby registered to
General Benjamin Moore with the
letter of General Moore from the
President of the United States
dated January 1, 1903

1. Dr. Schumacher's state of health has improved considerably since his operation. He is mentally very alert and fully informed on current affairs. While still confined to bed, he appears to be in full control of SPD affairs. He is visited daily by either Ollenhauer or Heine and dictates until 2:00 a.m. His stomach ailment has improved sufficiently for him to enjoy cigars and candy. On the other hand, his eyesight is now causing his friends to worry.
2. Schumacher's relations with leading SPD officials appear to be excellent. Discussions with him take place on a basis of friendship and intellectual independence. Official policy declarations of the party directorate result from such friendly discussions in Schumacher's apartment.

not discussed on this occasion). He declared that leading Americans in Germany, because of their fundamental economic views were opposed to the Social Democrats. Representatives of Military Government had not denied this position in their conversations with him. He criticized especially the actions of Military Government in the individual Lander, especially Hesse. He appeared to regard General Clay and Ambassador Murphy not as his personal enemies, but as enemies of the SPD who deplored the SPD victory in the Berlin municipal elections. He saw the cause of this victory in Berlin in the uncompromising attitude of the party toward the Communists.

4. Dr. Schumacher said he was aware of Germany's unfortunate position in foreign public opinion. He criticized especially British policies which aimed, in collaboration with the French, at a prevention of economic recovery in Germany. This charge, Schumacher said, could not be made against the Americans.
5. Schumacher said that the German people had already passed negative judgment on the work of the Parliamentary Council in Bonn and on the constitution

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Comment: The SPD Directorate is not in a hurry about the creation of a western German government. Parliamentary elections are desired for the month of May to allow sufficient time for political organization and financial improvement. At present the financial situation of the SPD as a result of the currency reform is not good. Party districts are behind in their collections and accounting; the new building of the party directorate in Hannover cost a great deal of money; and the party newspaper, Der Neue Vorwaerts, requires considerable monthly subsidies. The SPD Directorate is now considering merging Der Neue Vorwaerts with the Hannoversche Presse into one publishing company to avoid complete financial ruin of Der Neue Vorwaerts.

Erich Ollenhauer will represent the SPD Directorate in the future western

spokesman for the party directorate, since his activity in the Economic Council is considered unsatisfactory.

6. Dr. Schumacher has become very popular among SPD members of loyalty toward him by party officials. He recently discussed the question of Schumacher with non-SPD members, at the time that Schumacher's disloyalty to the SPD. During the von Knoeringen, Schumacher said, at one time belonged to which he considers according to Schumacher, was the spiritual leader of Neu-Beginnen, Paul Hagen.

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